

What is claimed is:

1. A scanning device comprising:

a housing;

5 a scanning component at least partially received in said housing for optically scanning a document and providing an electronic version of said document;

a preview screen cooperatively coupled with said housing and coupled to said scanning component such that said electronic version of said document can be visually displayed on said preview screen; and

10 an interactive component cooperatively coupled with at least one of said housing and said preview screen which can receive user input based upon said preview of said document.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein said preview screen and said interactive component are components of a graphical interface unit.

3. The device of claim 1, wherein said user input indicates acceptance or rejection of said electronic version of said document.

4. The device of claim 1, wherein said device is configured such that if said interactive component receives user input indicating acceptance of said electronic version of said document, said device exports said electronic version of said document.

5. The device of claim 4, wherein said exportation includes exporting said electronic version of said document to at least one of a network, host computer, telecommunications line, and printer.

6. The scanning device of claim 1, wherein said interactive component, in response to input from a user, causes modification of at least one of said preview of said document and said electronic version of said document.

7. The device of claim 1, wherein said interactive component includes at least one selectable function which, when selected by a user, causes said preview of said document to be modified or causes said electronic version of said document to be modified.

8. The device of claim 1, further comprising a controller, and wherein said scanning component, said preview screen and said interactive component are coupled to said controller.

9. The device of claim 8, wherein said controller is capable of processing or storing said electronic version of said document.

10. The device of claim 1, wherein said device includes means for connecting to a network to send said electronic version of said document to said network.

11. The device of claim 1, wherein said electronic version of said document includes at least part of an output of said scanning component that is indicative of at least part of the visual properties of said document.

12. The device of claim 1 wherein said device is a multifunction machine.

13. The device of claim 1 wherein said device includes an outgoing facsimile processing means for converting said electronic version of said document into an outgoing facsimile transmission.

14. The device of claim 1, wherein said device includes a print means for printing said electronic version of said document.

15. The device of claim 14, wherein said print means prints documents in response to commands and data signals sent from a computer.

16. The device of claim 1 wherein said device includes an exporting means for sending said electronic version of said document to an external device.

17. The device of claim 1 wherein said scanning component is capable of scanning a multi-page document.

18. The device of claim 17, wherein said preview screen is capable of displaying each page of said electronic version of said multi-page document.

19. The scanning device of claim 1, wherein said interactive component, in response to input from a user, causes modification of at least one of said preview of said document and said electronic version of said document.

20. The device of claim 1 wherein said interactive component includes at least one selectable rotate function which, when selected or operated by a user, causes said preview of said electronic version of said document to rotate or causes said electronic version of said document to be modified to accommodate such desired rotation.

21. The device of claim 1 wherein said interactive component includes at least one selectable crop function which, when selected or operated by a user, causes said preview of said electronic version of said document to be cropped or causes said electronic version of said document to be modified to accommodate such desired cropping.

22. The device of claim 1 wherein said interactive control unit includes at least one selectable change resolution function which, when selected or operated by a user, causes said preview of said electronic version of said document to be change its resolution or causes said electronic version of said document to be modified to accommodate such desired change in resolution.

23. The device of claim 1 wherein said interactive component includes an selectable add page function which, when selected or operated by a user, causes said electronic version of said document to be modified to accommodate an additional scanned page.

24. The device of claim 1 wherein said interactive component includes at least one selectable deskew function which, when selected or operated by a user, causes said preview of said electronic version of said document to be deskewed or causes said electronic version of said document to be modified to accommodate such desired deskewing.

25. The device of claim 1 wherein said interactive component includes at least one selectable image compression function which, when selected or operated by a user, causes said electronic version of said document to change compression schemes or alters the parameters of a compression scheme of said electronic version of said document.

26. The device of claim 1 wherein said interactive component includes at least one selectable alter bit depth function which, when selected or operated by a user, causes said electronic version of said document to change its bit depth.

27. The device of claim 1 wherein said interactive component includes at least one image processing button or selectable image processing function which, when selected or operated by a user, causes said electronic version of said document to be modified.

28. The device of claim 1 wherein said interactive component includes a touch pad configured to receive inputs from a user in response to manual pressure applied to said touch pad.

29. The device of claim 1 wherein said interactive component includes a plurality of selectable functions which can be operated by a user.

30. The scanning device of claim 1 wherein said preview screen and said interactive component are each part of an interactive graphical display unit.

31. A scanning device comprising:

a housing;

a scanning component cooperatively coupled with said housing for optically scanning a document and providing an output that is indicative of at least part of 5 the visual properties of said document;

a memory or controller capable of receiving at least part of said output of said scanning component and storing or processing said at least part of said output as an electronic version of said document;

10 a preview screen cooperatively coupled with said housing and coupled to said scanning component such that at least part of said output of said scanning component is a preview of said document which can be displayed on said preview screen; and

15 an interactive component cooperatively coupled with at least one of said housing and said preview screen which, in response to input from a user, can cause modification of at least one of said preview of said document and said electronic version of said document.

32. The device of claim 31, wherein said at least part of said output that can be provided to said preview screen includes at least part of said electronic version of said document.

33. A method for previewing a document on a scanning device having a preview screen and an interactive component comprising the steps of:

scanning a document to generate an output that is indicative of at least part of said document;

forming a preview of said document and an electronic version of said document;

displaying said preview on said preview screen.

34. The method of claim 33, further including the step of receiving input from a user.

5       35. The method of claim 34, wherein said input indicates rejection or acceptance of said scanned document or of said preview of said document or of said electronic version of said document.

10      36. The method of claim 34, further including the step of, in response to said input, modifying at least one of said preview of said document and said electronic version 10 of said document.

37. A scanning device comprising:

means for optically scanning a document and providing an electronic version of said document;

15       means for visually displaying said electronic version of said document on a preview screen; and

means for receiving user input based upon said display of said document.